

ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

10/5/2011

NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY FORUM TAKEAWAYS

An enthusiastic crowd of over two hundred students, parents, alumni, elected officials, and community leaders attended an open forum hosted by the Achievement School District at Northside High School on Wednesday, 10/5/2011. Following an overview of the Achievement School District's purpose and goals presented by Superintendent Chris Barbic, meeting attendees broke into small groups to address the following questions:

- What should Northside continue doing to bolster student achievement?
- What should Northside initiate to improve student performance?
- Which policies and/or procedures are currently not contributing to the success of Northside students and should therefore be eliminated?

The answers compiled below are the results of the breakaway sessions and represent the suggestions of Northside alumni, parents, students, etc. who have a vested interest in the endurance and enrichment of their school.

KEEP DOING

1. Retaining teachers who are making inroads with students and have a good rapport with parents
2. Emphasizing the importance of scoring well on the ACT in order to get into a four-year college
3. Offering dual enrollment classes
4. Offering after school tutoring and enrichment programs
5. Supporting Dr. Winston and his efforts to transform Northside's culture
6. Offering electives, such as ROTC, band, etc.
7. Respecting the opinions of parents, alumni, and staff members

START DOING

1. Scheduling more activities and community outreach programs, such as PTA meetings and open houses
2. Reinstating vocational courses that prepare students for real world jobs
3. Offering field trips to nearby colleges and universities
4. Hiring additional college counselors
5. Inviting successful alumni to mentor students
6. Creating new clubs and extracurricular activities, such as newspaper, yearbook, debate, etc.
7. Collaborating with feeder schools to ensure that entering freshman perform at grade level

8. Allowing parents to have a voice in teacher evaluations
9. Asking students for their input and suggestions

STOP DOING

1. Socially promoting students
2. Expecting teachers to make academic progress with outdated, insufficient resources
3. Suspending students for minor offenses
4. Disrespecting/talking down to students
5. Eliminating vocational courses due to budget constraints
6. Allowing students to be tardy or cut class
7. Turning a blind eye to bad things happening in the community
8. Allowing students to submit assignments after due dates